



The Nathan Trice Rituals again delivers an enthralling recital at the Cas di Cultura

Returning to Aruba after a two year hiatus, the Nathan Trice visiting dance troupe was center stage last Friday and Saturday at the Cas di Cultura for appreciative audiences, which included the Minister of Culture, the Honorable Ramon Lee and his wife. The performances culminate a two-week visit from the New York City troupe, during which Nathan, along with members of his troupe gave dance workshops for islanders through a program conducted by the Fundacion Muchilla and UNOCA.

Mr. Trice had stated during an interview published earlier this week in THE NEWS . “ I find now my work involves much more social commentary, and this time I am bringing work that really is about relating to each other.” This sentiment was quite evident in the differences between the performances of his former visit and those of this past weekend. The ebb and flow of the dancers and music was less jarring and but conveyed in not only body movement, but also facial expression, the music, and spoken poetry the perplexity we all face in finding our place or purpose in life and how we relate to others. In the smooth flow of individual interaction in the first two pieces titled “Bottom of a Kiss Floating” and “Conversations, the audience observes the nuances of personal relationships, or small groups of friends.

The final piece, titled “Impetus” and employing all the members of the troupe, showed the isolation an individual can feel with the hustle and bustle of the world around him, but also the serenity that he seems to have found, without the need to rush about as the others. Mr. Trice was the nearly motionless center of a whirlwind of activity around him, dominating the stage, the center of the routine, and yet his stillness sets him apart and perhaps above all that is going on, until the other dancers begin to imitate him. The dramatic lighting echoed the influence of contemporary films such as “The Matrix,” which Mr. Trice admits affected him strongly in the creation of this work.

Aside from Mr. Trice the visiting dance troupe included Kyle Abraham, Nigel Campbell, Jacqueline Dumas, Akiko Morita, Jakee Malik Pyles, Lauren Sambataro, Royji Sasamoto, Erin Nicole Smith, and Yusha Marie Sorzano plus their lighting technician Stuart Nelson. Joining the troupe on the stage were Aruban dancers Alydia Wever of the Diana Antonette School of Dance and Samanta Westera-Juppa, director of the Club di Movimento dance school. Samanta described the experience as “exhilarating” and “unique.” “Nathan employs very different teaching and dance techniques than that to which most dancers are accustomed. He encourages a dancer to find and exploit what is inside you, to reveal yourself on the stage, not just perform set movement, but to bring your own creativity into the mix. It is very refreshing and challenging for a dancer, it was a wonderful experience to work with him.”

During an after party on opening night in the gardens of the Cas di Cultura, Mr. Trice expressed the hope to return to Aruba next year, to conduct more workshops and again perform. It would appear that the Fundacion Muchilla is quite enthusiastic in regards to bringing the dance troupe back to the island. While here, Nathan Trice Rituals not only provided two enjoyable evenings for their audience, but also stimulating new ideas for the directors of a number of dance schools, and inspiration to island dancers.